

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, and 12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 4, and 12 are amended, and claims 9 and 11 are canceled. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the specification, at page 6, lines 6–7. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 4, 9, and 11–13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,980,926 to Suzuki et al. ("Suzuki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,208,030 to Hoy et al. ("Hoy"). Claim 13 was previously canceled, and by this Amendment, claims 9 and 11 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

By this Amendment, claims 3 and 12 are amended to recite "wherein the first and second active ingredients are the same active ingredient."

The water dispersible granule formulations produced by the claimed processes, wherein the first and second active ingredient are the same, exhibit improved initial and residual activities of the active ingredient that are unexpected over the teachings of Suzuki and Hoy, as demonstrated in Tables 4 and 5 of the specification.

For example, Table 4 shows that the water dispersible granule formulation of Example 5 demonstrates 20% of residual effect, whereas the water dispersible granule formulation of Comparative Example 5 demonstrate 0% of residual effect when the concentration of an active ingredient sprayed is 12 ppm. In addition, the water dispersible granule formulation of Example 5 demonstrates 95% of the initial activity, whereas the water

dispersible granule formulation of Comparative Example 6 demonstrates 50% of initial activity when the concentration of an active ingredient sprayed is 3 ppm.

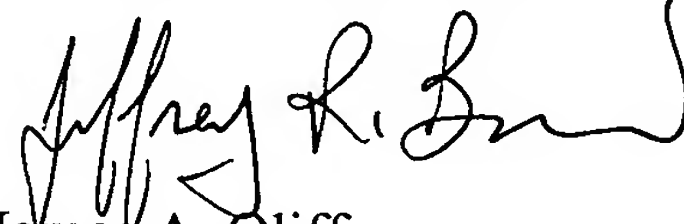
The combination of Suzuki and Hoy do not teach or suggest a method for obtaining water dispersible granule formulations that exhibit improved initial and residual activities of an active ingredient. Therefore, the subject matter of claims 3, 4, and 12 would not have been rendered obvious by the asserted combination of Suzuki and Hoy. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 16, 2010

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